

REMARKS

Claims 2, 3, 7-9 and 12 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4-6 and 10-11 are herein cancelled. Claims 2, 3, 7 and 9 are herein amended. No new matter has been added.

Entry of the amendment after final rejection is respectfully requested as the amendment is considered to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Objections

Claims 7 and 8 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be held allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 7 is herein amended. Claim 8 is dependent on newly amended independent claim 7. In view of this amendment, claim 7 and the dependent claims of the present application are herein allowable.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mitchell et al. (US 5,294,513) (hereinafter Mitchell); claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al (US 2003/0051580) (hereinafter Lewis); claims 1, 6, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lee et al (US 6342461) (herein Lee). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1, 4-6 are herein cancelled. Claims 2, 9 are herein amended. In view of these claim amendments, these rejections are rendered moot.

Application No. 10/598,240
Art Unit: 1793

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 062933

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Frame (US 5,278,111) (hereinafter Frame) in view of Strange (US 4,369,062) (hereinafter Strange); claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al (US 6342461); claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee et al (US 6,342,461) in view of Harrison (US 5,268,131). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Claims 1 is herein cancelled. Claims 2, 3 and 12 are herein amended. In view of these claim amendments, these rejections are rendered moot.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

Application No. 10/598,240
Art Unit: 1793

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 062933

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

/BERNADETTE K. McGANN/

Bernadette K. McGann
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 65,127
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

LCW/BKM/bam